

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

LISTING OF CLAIMS:

1. (currently amended) A device for the earthquake-resistant mounting of a partition between a floor (2) and a ceiling (4), said partition ~~having~~ a framework ~~comprising~~ comprised of a lower rail (8) and an upper rail (10) that are substantially horizontal and configured to connect to uprights that are substantially vertical ~~connecting to connect~~ the upper and lower rails, ~~as well as the framework configured to fixably connect with~~ a covering (6), the device comprising: fixed to said framework. ~~characterized in that comprises~~

a slide (18) of profiled section, the slide ~~being adapted~~ configured to be joined to the upper rail (10) and having arms forming a substantially U-shaped section[,]; and

a top runner (30) ~~adapted~~ configured to be fixed to the ceiling (4) and configured to be partially housed in the slide (18) between the arms of ~~its the U-section~~ U-shaped section of the slide,

~~in that wherein~~ the slide (18) and top runner (30) are each mounted ~~such that they are able~~ to move relative to each other in a vertical direction, and

~~in that~~ wherein reversible snap-fitting means (26, 28) are provided between the slide (18) and the top runner (30).

2. (currently amended) ~~[[A]]~~ The device according to claim 1, ~~characterized in that~~ wherein the top runner (30) is in the form of a rail of profiled section comprising two side flanges (36) extending parallel to the arms (22) of the ~~U-section~~ U-shaped section of the slide (18) and within those arms.

3. (currently amended) ~~[[A]]~~ The device according to claim 2, ~~characterized in that~~ wherein each of the side flanges (36) of the top runner (30) and each of the arms (22) of the ~~U-section~~ U-shaped section of the slide (18) comprises a boss (26, 38) projecting inwardly respectively from the flanges (36) and from the arms (22), the bosses (26) of the slide (18) being adapted, when in resting position, to locate in the bosses (38) of the top runner (30).

4. (currently amended) ~~[[A]]~~ The device according to claim 1, ~~characterized in that~~ wherein the slide (18) comprises at each free end of the arms (22) of ~~its U-section~~ the U-shaped section a rim (24) extending outwardly of the U of the U-shaped section, substantially perpendicular to the arms (22) of the U.

5. (currently amended) [[A]] The device according to claim 4, ~~characterized in that it~~ further ~~comprises~~ comprising:

an elastic joint (48) adapted to be located between a rim (24) of the slide (18) and the ceiling (4) on which the top runner (30) is fixed.

6. (currently amended) [[A]] The device according to claim 1, ~~characterized in that~~ wherein the top runner (30) is a member of profiled section comprising two side flanges (36) slidably mounted between the arms (22) of the ~~U-section~~ U-shaped section of the slide (18) and also a housing (34), disposed between the side flanges (36), on the opposite side from the slide (18), and adapted to receive a material (35) having fire-retardant properties.

7. (currently amended) [[A]] The device according to claim 1, ~~characterized in that it~~ further ~~comprises~~ comprising:

at least one anchorage reinforcing member (16) disposed in the top runner (30).

8. (currently amended) [[A]] The device according to claim 7, ~~characterized in that~~ wherein said anchorage reinforcing member (16) is constituted by a U-section member disposed transversely with respect to the slide (18) and the top runner (30).

9. (currently amended) A partition ~~having a~~
framework, comprising:

a substantially horizontal lower rail (8); and

~~an~~ a substantially horizontal upper rail (10), said lower
rail (8) and said upper rail (10) being configured to be connected
to substantially vertical ~~and uprights; that are substantially~~
~~vertical connecting the upper and lower rails, as well as~~

a covering (6) fixed to said upper and lower rails; fixed
~~to said framework, and~~

~~characterized in that the framework further comprises a~~
device according to claim 1.

10. (currently amended) [[A]] The partition according
to claim 9, ~~characterized in that~~ wherein an upper portion of the
covering (6) is fixed ~~at its upper portion~~ so as not to extend
beyond the slide (18), ~~thus leaving~~ forming a free space between
the covering (6) and the ceiling (4), ~~it being possible for~~ said
space configured to be filled by a joint (48) of elastic material.

11. (currently amended) [[A]] The partition according
to claim 9, ~~characterized in that~~ wherein the covering boards (6)
are mounted so as to be floating with respect to the lower rail
(8).

12. (currently amended) [[A]] The partition according to claim 9, ~~characterized in that wherein~~ a flexible mastic joint (46) is ~~made~~ provided between the floor (2) and the covering (6) fixed to the framework.

13. (currently amended) [[A]] The partition according to claim 9, ~~characterized in that wherein~~ at least one anchorage reinforcing member (16) is disposed transversely in the lower rail (8).

14. (currently amended) A partition, ~~according to claim 9, characterized in that it further comprises~~ comprising:

[[-]] ~~two~~ a substantially vertical side ~~edges, edge;~~ edge; ~~each associated with~~

a substantially vertical side rail[[,]] (10) associated with each of said substantially vertical side edge; and

[[-]] a device configured to mount ~~for the mounting of~~ said partition on a substantially vertical wall, ~~which mounting device comprises~~ comprised of a slide (18) of profiled section, the slide ~~being adapted~~ configured to be joined to the side rail (10) and having arms forming a substantially U-shaped section, and a vertical runner ~~adapted~~ configured to be fixed to the ~~corresponding~~ vertical wall and configured to be partially housed in the slide (18) between the arms of ~~its the U-section~~ U-shaped section of the slide,

~~and in that~~ wherein the slide (18) and the vertical runner are mounted ~~such that they are able~~ to move relative to each other in a horizontal direction, and

~~in that~~ wherein reversible snap-fitting means (26, 28) are provided between the slide (18) and the vertical runner.